Students in Kolkata studying under open sky

*198. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five lakh students of 550 primary schools in Kolkata and four major districts study under an open sky;

(b) if so, Government's policy on primary education; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure that pupils are saved from agony of rain, heat and cold while attending schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) According to the Government of West Bengal, there are very few schools in the State which have no buildings and it is not a fact that five lakh students are studying under open sky. However, there are 50 schools in ten districts having no school building on account of floods. Kolkata has no such school with children studying in the open.

(b) and (c) In pursuance of the National Policy on Education, 1986. the Scheme of Operation Blackboard was launched in 1987-88 to bring all existing primary schools in the country upto a minimum standard by way of physical facilities which *inter alia* included provision of at least two reasonably large all weather rooms along with a verandah and separate toilet facilities for boys and girls. Under the District Primary Education Programme upto 33% funds may be spent on civil works, including school buildings and additional classrooms. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, 33% funds of the primary education sector are to be utilised on construction of new school buildings and additional classrooms. The proposed Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan envisages a classroom for every teacher in primary and upper primary schools.

Reduction in subsidy in Railways

†*199. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the financial crisis, it has been decided

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to reduce, the amount of subsidy given for various areas under the Railways at present;

(b) if so, what is the average annual amount of subsidy being given to all the areas under Railways at present; and

(c) which are those areas and what criteria have been fixed for reducing the amount of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) No such decision has been taken.

Impact of economic liberalisation in Kendriya Vidyalayas

†*200. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Undarikaran Ki Chhaya Kendriya Vidyalayon Par Bhi" published in the Daily Hindustan (New Delhi) dated 12th November, 2000;

(b) if so, the amount of yearly savings made through closure of some Kendriya Vidyalayas and the annual expenditure increased on account of computer education in 319 Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(c) the category-wise and State-wise number of teaching and the non-teaching posts remaining vacant since beginning of the year 1999; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The schools merged/closed in Civil/Defence Sector are relocated at other places. Schools in the project Sector are not financed by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan but by the respective project authorities, because of which their closures do not lead to any financial savings to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. Further there will be no additional burden on the Government of India budget for Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan on account of recurring expenditure on computer education in 319 Schools.

(c) As on 01.11.2000, 62 posts of Principals, 203 posts of Head Masters,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.